

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 260520

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TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

UNCLAS STATE 260520

FOLLOWING REPEAT KUALA LUMPUR 5339 ACTION INFO LONDON
SECSTATE DATED 11/11/74:

QUOTE UNCLAS KUALA LUMPUR 5339

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, MY

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON FOURTH WORLD TIN CONFERENCE IN KUALA
LUMPUR, OCTOBER 30-NOVEMBER 5, 1974.

REF: STATE 232238; K.L. 5159

1. BOB ROSS, DIRECTOR, U.S. STOCKPILE DISPOSALS, G.S.A. WHO
ATTENDED CONFERENCE AS SPECIAL GUEST, COMMENTS THAT CONFERENCE
ATTENDED BY MORE THAN 400 PARTICIPANTS WELL BEYOND EXPECTED
250-300 PARTICIPANTS. CONFERENCE COVERED ALL TECHNICAL
ASPECTS OF TIN EXPLORATION, PRODUCTION, SMELTING, MARKETING AND
END-USES.

2. GSA STOCKPILE PROGRAM MENTIONED IN OPENING REMARKS BY DEPUTY
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA DATUK HUSSEIN ONN, WHO SAID, "IN THE
EFFORT TO KEEP PRICE AT REALISTIC LEVELS, CO-OPERATION BETWEEN
U.S. GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION AND ITC IS ESSENTIAL WITH
REGARD TO DISPOSALS OF US TIN STOCKPILES".
ROSS SAYS PARTICIPANTS ALSO EXPRESSED APPREHENSION AND CONCERN
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PAGE 02 STATE 260520

ABOUT FUTURE GSA TIN STOCKPILE DISPOSALS SEVERAL TIMES DURING

TECHNICAL SESSIONS.

3. ROSS ANSWERED THESE QUERIES BY EXPLAINING THAT CURRENT USG POLICY IS TO PROCEED WITH OBTAINING LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING FUTURE STOCKPILE DISPOSALS, TO CONTINUE TO BE PRESENCE IN MARKET, AND TO ACT IN MANNER WHICH WILL NOT DISRUPT MARKET. ROSS NOTES THAT HE MADE NO STATEMENTS OR COMMITMENTS AT ODDS WITH PAST DISCUSSIONS WITH ITC.

4. POSS SAYS GSA POSITION ON TIN STOCKPILE DISPOSALS SEEMED WELL ACCEPTED BY DELEGATES. EMBASSY BELIEVES FOLLOWING INCIDENT CONFIRMS THIS VIEW. ROSS PARTICIPATED ON PANEL ON TIN MARKETING TOGETHER WITH ITC BUFFER STOCK MANAGER, REPRESENTATIVE OF LONDON METAL EXCHANGE, SPOKESMAN FROM PENANG TIN EXCHANGE, AND DIRECTOR OF MINES, MALAYSIA. QUESTION WAS DIRECTED TO ROSS ON USG STOCKPILE POLICIES, (PRESENT AND FUTURE) AND GSA STOCKPILE DISPOSAL OPERATIONS. HE GAVE LUCID AND PERSUASIVE RESPONSE ALONG LINES IN PARA 3. WHEN POSS FINISHED SPEAKING, CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS APPLAUDED SPONTANEOUSLY AND LENGTHILY. (ONLY PANEL MEMBER DURING 2 1/2 HOUR SESSION RECEIVE SUCH ACCLAIM).

5. ROSS WILL DISCUSS CONFERENCE WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS UPON RETURN. EMBASSY POUCHING ONE SET CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS TO DEPT. UNDERHILL UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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